SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST

Frequently we are asked if there are any books we would recommend that law students read before they begin law school. We believe the following books give students a sense of what law school is like, the history of American law, and why lawyers do the work they do.

Preparing for Law School:


Andrew J. McClurg, 1L of a Ride: A Well Traveled Professor’s Roadmap to Success in the First Year of Law School (West 2008).


Alice Silkey, Director of Academic Success, recommends that if you have time to read only one book on this summer reading list, choose this one.


Famous Trials/Famous Lawyers:

Garret Epps, To an Unknown God: Religious Freedom on Trial (St. Martin’s Press 2001).

This is the story of an American Indian’s defense of his religious right to engage in a peyote ceremony.


This book chronicles a class action lawsuit brought in 1986 against Beatrice Foods and W.R. Grace. The plaintiffs charged that toxic waste on properties owned by the giant corporations had infiltrated town drinking water and caused an outbreak of leukemia.

This book examines the Supreme Court’s 1954 decision that outlawed segregation in public schools.


This book is about the landmark case of James E. Gideon’s fight for the right to legal counsel.


This is an autobiography that depicts the experiences of a lawyer who handled famous court cases.


This book examines the shortcomings in the legal process and how they have led to the wrongful convictions of innocent people.

**The Law in General:**


This book is about law, legal method, and argumentation. It is applicable to common law, statutory law, and constitutional law.


The book presents the challenges of government and jurisprudence as well as cites many cases to illustrate the process of judicial interpretation.

**Classic Fiction:**

Countless works of fiction center on the drama of a trial or the intricacies of a legal proceeding. Here are just a few of the classics.


